

# The ValleyStar

VOLUME 55, ISSUE 1

www.lavalleycollege.com

## Grand opening of Cafe

■**CAFETERIA:** The grand opening of the renovated cafeteria took place earlier this spring.

By INGRID MOLINA  
STAR REPORTER

After more than seven months of construction Los Angeles Valley College opened the doors to its new cafeteria this semester.

The new cafeteria combines a variety of foods including Mexican, subs, burgers and a salad bar. "The food is good and healthy, not fattening," said Orlando Ventura, a cafeteria employee. "It's something new with more selections and better food."

Before the remodeling, the cafeteria had a county health score of "C" because their equipment was not up to code. The walls, floors and tables were old. The 10-year-old equipment did not cook the food at the proper temperature.

With the remodeling, the cafeteria received new equipment that will cook food at the proper temperature and refrigerators that will maintain food properly. No more microwaves.

"Thank God it's been renewed," said student Henry Avalos. "We needed this, we needed a change."

Avalos prefers a home cooked meal, but when he has to eat at school, he likes to eat a healthy meal that tastes good at a nice, clean, well-lit place.

"The old one was falling apart," said Avalos.

"It's better than eating a pre-packaged sandwich," said student Karen Goldman. "The food was expensive, but it's better and it's cleaner."

The prices for a meal are four

SEE CAFETERIA, PAGE 3

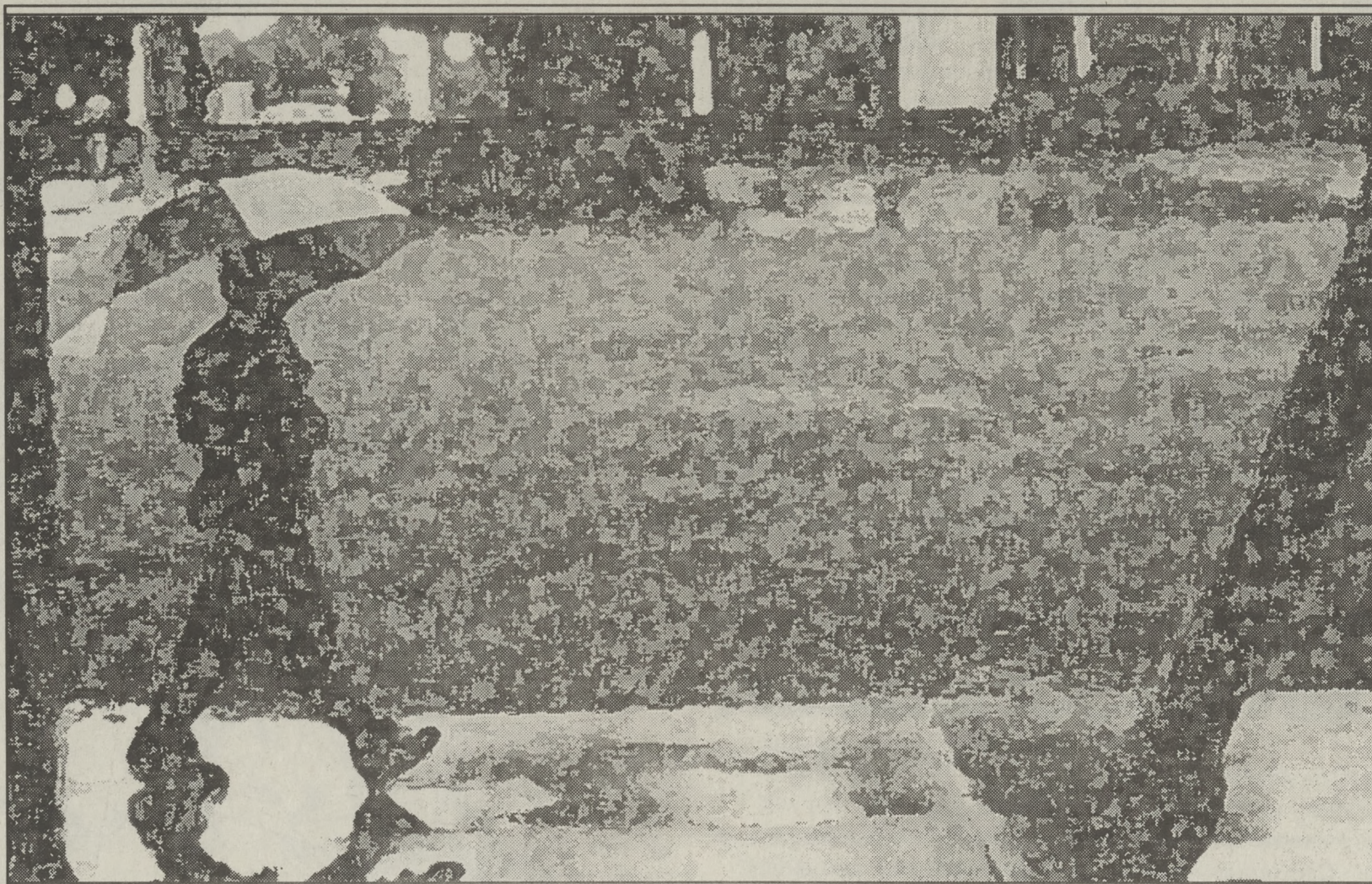


Photo illustration by SAMANTHA KUPPIG/Valley Star  
*Valley College and the rest of the southland got bombarded by a torrential downpour. Some students rushed to their classes skipping over puddles and avoiding getting drenched, while others welcomed the change with a nice stroll in the rain.*

## Sheriff takes over

■**SHERIFFS:** The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has officially taken over the duties of campus police.

By CATHY KOEBEL  
STAR REPORTER

New faces arrived on campus during the winter break as personnel from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department joined Valley College to officially take over the campus' policing.

Other well-known faces will be leaving Valley and transferring to several other divisions within the sheriff's department.

"Lots of changes for the department," Deputy Randy Tuninstra, team leader for the sheriff's department said. "It's never had a set up like this before, such as college policing."

Tuninstra, as the new team leader for Valley, will handle the duties required for policing of the campus. He has been with the sheriff's department for 12 and one-half years, which included four years in the custody division and seven and one-half years in patrol.

"Things will be different," Tuninstra said, "But changes will be made as we move along."

Other officers joining the staff are Sgt. Eric Hartman and Sgt. Bill Barbe. They will be assisting Tuninstra in the daily activities on this campus. These officers will also supervise Mission and Pierce Colleges. Valley will act as the command post for the San Fernando Valley area.

"Myself and Sgt. Hartman will be roving between the campuses," Barbe said. "We will start here and move as necessary to the other campuses."

Barbe said Valley would have a total of 13 security officers. He said training included a five-

week session under the supervision of the sheriff's department.

"There were 43 of us when we started," said Bowser. "Only 23 graduated from Class I of the program."

Bowser said additional training for security officers is underway. Upon graduating, additional security officers will be assigned throughout the district.

Student workers under the cadet program will still be assisting the police officers and security guards as they have done in the past.

The takeover began when an impasse occurred between the police union and the Los Angeles Community College District. Proposed suggestions made by the police union president, Al Reddick, were that the Los Angeles Community College District's policing be taken over by the sheriff's department. After feasibility studies and background checks were completed, the sheriff's department took

over the policing for the nine campuses earlier this year. Money was a large factor in the hiring of the sheriff's department.

"I don't believe it will save us money," Tyree Wieder, president of Valley, said. "But we still have to shake out the numbers."

Wieder said the process of the budgeting for our campus would remain the same and that the District would pay any additional costs due to the new start up.

Many of the former police from Valley, are being transferred to Court Services and the Transportation Bureau. Sunday will be the last day these officers will be at Valley.

"The transition is going well here at Valley," Habicht said. "But, I feel bad about leaving my alma mater."

Assisting Tuninstra in the transition will be Nora Geller, senior office assistant, who is the only staff member who will be staying on at Valley.

## Man shot and killed

■**SHOOTING:** Police surround and open fire on man in shopping mall parking lot on Victory and Ethel when he told officers that he had a gun.

By SOTIVEAR SIM  
STAR REPORTER

A man was shot and killed on Friday when he failed to cooperate with police officers during a routine traffic stop in the parking lot of the Golan Restaurant near Victory and Ethel.

The shooting created a nightmare on Victory as both sides of the street were closed off, which created a sea of cars snarled for blocks.

Officer Mark Guardado, the original officer on the scene approached the man in the black Mazda MX-6 when he heard him shout that he had a gun and that the officer would have to shoot him according to the police reports filed with the Los Angeles Police Department North Hollywood division.

Officer Guardado took cover and called for backup. Wesley Albin from the Los Angeles Police Department Metro Division responded to the call and was then followed by officer Jon-Christian Healy.

During an ensuing standoff, the man who was now standing outside his vehicle repeatedly provoked the officers by pounding on his chest and

SEE SHOOTING, PAGE 3

## Austin Conover

### A hidden treasure

■**MUSEUM:** Austin Conover, curator of the historical museum, is a fountain of knowledge.

By LINDA TOPDJIAN  
STAR REPORTER

A hidden wealth of history!

On a warm summer day exploring the campus, new students embark on their journey of education.

Austin Conover, a living museum himself, a simple man so sweet and helpful, greets anyone who happens to stumble upon the steps of the Los Angeles Valley Historical Museum, which is housed in the James L. Dodson Building at Valley College. It is a small, hidden away place so filled with the history of the San Fernando Valley

that it bursts at the seams, exposing its wealth of interesting two million year-old whale fossils and artifacts that feed the mind the history of California.

Born in Kansas City, Mo., on May 9, 1913, Conover, 87, is filled with the respect for his job as curator and love of the history of anything that is linked to the history of the San Fernando Valley.

Painstakingly, he carefully posts any and all articles that connect to the history on a time line that starts from 1974, when the museum came into existence.

Hilda Abolian works with Conover to compile the riches of

history that are within the walls of the museum.

"He is a good man, and volunteers from the heart, treating the museum like his own home," said Abolian. With 32 years

under Conover's belt, as a writer for the Hollywood Citizen News, he has achieved his title as the "Roaming Around Columnist." He has traveled the

globe, from covering the Cold War, to stories about Guatemala, Israel, South Vietnam and the USSR. When his job ended with the newspaper, his writing

stopped for a while.

Conover began working at Los Angeles Harbor College as the communications officer. After two years, he transferred to Valley College, where he became the best of close friends with James L. Dodson, the curator at that time.

After 10 years of working as a communications officer at Valley, he retired. He became a volunteer and the director of the museum and in June 2000, became the curator, where he edits and writes a bimonthly newsletter.

Conover was the very person to suggest to Dodson to invite notable speakers to Valley yearly, and that "Mr. Dodson, agreed," Conover said.

In 1949 Dodson became the first faculty member at Valley, the same year that the college

SEE AUSTIN, PAGE 3

## InsideStar



### Page 4 Girl power

The softball team is making sure everyone knows they are not to be taken lightly.

### Page 2 It's the big cheese

Cheddar or Swiss, that is the question. Hear the views of your fellow peers in the Campus View.



## EDITORIALS

Last month California assumed the duties of the utilities by purchasing electricity for its customers at a cost of 45 million dollars a day.

There is even talk about purchasing the transmission grids from utilities such as Pacific Gas and Electric, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas and Electric for several billions of dollars to get the crisis under control.

All this talk of buying electricity and building power plants does not address the conservation of energy and the effect this will have on our environment. Do people even realize that to create electricity a fuel source must be burned to heat water that in turn spin turbines that produce electricity. The burning of that fuel causes pollution. The fuels that are usually burned are cleaner burning natural gases, but others use nuclear power to heat their water.

There is no one source to throw blame upon on this issue. But like many problems the energy crisis has its roots at home. According to the California Energy Commission residential energy consumption rose 13 percent since 1995, while the state's population rose only 8 percent.

From the newer and larger homes with their gadgets such as trash compactors, giant self cleaning ovens, heated pools, and six burner stoves to the older homes with their leaky windows, old air conditioning units, and old water heaters, all compound the issue of conservation.

Take a long look at yourself and the lifestyle you lead. We live in a digital age where everyone is hooked up to one kind of device or another. We live in a society where there are six electrical sockets to a room to accommodate your computer, stereo, television, lights, and who knows what other gizmo we have cooked up.

If nothing else this crisis will teach us the value of electricity and it is something not to be taken for granted. This will be the only way that we will learn to conserve our energy. Like the drought from 1987-92, which forced Californians to change their habits and incorporate low flush toilets and low flow shower heads into their lives, hopefully this will teach us that we don't need four televisions in our homes and to not use large appliances during peak hours of the day.

This will be a benefit not only to ourselves but to our future.



**IN THE HOT SEAT!**

The Valley Star would like to receive and publish your letters. Letters are limited to 250 words, may be edited for length and must be free of obscene, libelous, racial, ethnic, religious, sexist or sexually oriented denigrations. They must be signed. Send to the Valley Star c/o Los Angeles Valley College 5800 Fulton Valley Glen, CA 91401 or left in the news room in BJ 114

## Viewpoints

By ROBIN WEISSMAN  
STAR REPORTER

I never used to have trouble getting in and out of buildings. Let me tell you, it's not because I'm fat and lazy.

It wasn't until I started using a wheelchair or scooter when I began asking questions like: Are your buildings wheelchair/scooter accessible? Do your buildings have elevators? Do your sidewalks have curb cutouts? Are there ramp entries in lieu of stairs?

I did ask about wheelchair, classroom accessibility when I enrolled for Journalism 101 in the Spring Semester. I was told that bungalow 26 was approachable using a wheelchair. Having taken Journalism 106 in the fall semester, it was scheduled for bungalow 25.

I contested this accessibility decision for bungalow 26, I knew that there were NO ramps.

Journalism 106 was moved to bungalow 45 that had a ramp.

The irony of my Spring Semester enrollment experience was that I used the Disability Office to secure a smoother and more accurate process. Boy, was I wrong. I was asked why I was signing up at the office. I said, "When I registered at the Admissions Office for the Fall Semester, they recorded my social security number incorrectly."

When I was signing up for Journalism 101, the woman checking room accessibility checked the Room Book that has the list of disability friendly classrooms.

The Room Book identified bungalow 26 as accessible. In reality, however, the only way to enter and exit was to use a short flight of stairs.

There was NO RAMP. Just like Journalism 106, Journalism 101 had to be moved.

I said, "Who updates the Room Book?" I was angry. The people who I asked implicitly trusted an outdated and incorrect resource. I was thinking that students and teachers who have disabilities might lead change of updating the Room Book.

There are other disability campus issues begging change such as the signage is too high to be seen from a wheelchair or scooter.

A handicapped restroom stall is too narrow to fit a scooter. Fused desks in classrooms are barriers for people using wheelchairs or scooters.

Cracked sidewalks, curbs, driveways and streets are stumbling blocks for everyone. Uneven grounds are hazardous.

I know there are readers out there with stories of their own. We'd love to read and learn from your experience. Send your true story to the Valley Star.

## The ValleyStar

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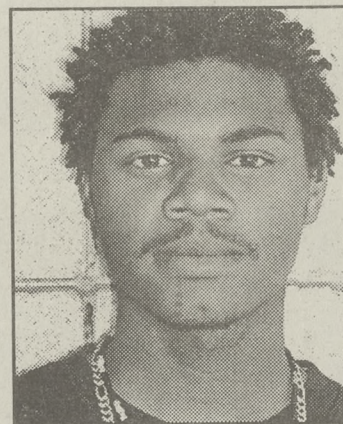
## CampusView

If President Bush was a cheese, what kind of cheese would he be and why?



He would be swiss cheese. There are holes in his personality. There are things about him that are incomplete.

Atusa Heidarian



Kraft Singles because it's made out of milk and he is white. I want someone who knows where I am coming from. I want some diversity.

Davon Jones



I think he would be blue cheese because he's old and moldy.

Sonia Luha



Fresh Mozzarella. He has not proven himself against the innumerable problems that he will encounter as president. When he does prove himself he will be a regular Mozzarella.

Fausto Chiantera



## Campus

### Lend Me a Tenor

The first play for the spring will be premiering in the Horseshoe Theatre at 8:00 pm. Tickets are 10 dollars for regular admission and 7 dollars for seniors and students.

### Job Shadow Day 2001

See what it's like to work in an occupation that interests you by spending half a day at a leading local company or organization; Shadowing someone in that line of work

Interested students must attend one of the orientation sessions.

#### Orientation Dates

Mon., Feb. 26 @ 6:00 pm  
Thur., March 8 @ 1:00 pm  
Mon., March 12 @ 1:00 pm  
Wed., March 14 @ 12:30 pm

For more info contact Wendy (818) 947-2646

### Black History

Dr. Genevive Shepherd will be giving a lecture highlighting Black History in Los Angeles. Dr. Shepard will take participants on a visual tour of LA's most interesting landmarks in the African American community. The lecture will be held on Feb. 27 at 9:30 am in Campus Center 104

### Extended Hours

Effective Feb. 24 Academic Affairs, Counseling, Admission and Records, and Financial Aid will be open on Saturdays from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm.

### Sports

Track & Field Western State Conference #1 at College of the Canyons

Baseball will be playing a home game against Pasadena City College on February 20 at 2:00 pm

### FEBRUARY

M	T	W	T	F
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28		

## Shooting

CONT'D FROM PAGE ONE

saying "c'mon, you are going to have to shoot me.

Officers repeatedly hollered out orders for him to put his hands in the air and surrender.

The suspect ignored their orders and continued to have his hand under his sweater insinuating he had a gun according to police reports.

At one time the suspect even got as bold as to say "I'm going to count to three and then I'm going to shoot you. One. Two. Three."

Still, the officers did not open fire. Soon, more officers came to the scene and blocked off all exits to trap the suspect in the parking lot.

By then the sky was filled with the thundering beating of several helicopters as they hovered high above the scene.

People in the shopping mall parking lot started to realize the danger that they were in. Parents rushed their kids into the shelter of a near by supermarket, while others stood frozen, eyes wide in disbelief of the events taking place.

Others got on their cell phones recounting the events. "It was scary and exciting at the same time," said Sigal Papadakis, a waitress at the Golan restaurant.

By this time the suspect was surrounded, with no way of

escape. He then went into his car and sat there for a few minutes.

Suddenly the sounds of several miniature explosions followed one another, merging into one huge blast of energy that hovered in the air for several seconds.

The man received gunshot wounds to his torso, police said. He was transported to the Holy Cross Hospital where he died.

"There were like 20-30 cops pointing their guns at him," said Papadakis. "They yelled at him to get out of the car. When he did get out he had his finger under his sweater as if he had a gun. And that's when they shot him."

The area was quickly taped off as officers and detective went over the crime scene. No one inside the shopping mall parking lot were allowed to leave.

At least three hours passed before anyone was able to return to their lives. People were allowed to walk away from the crime scene but their vehicles had to stay.

The Robbery Homicide section of the Los Angeles Police Department is investigating the officer involved shooting. The victim's name has been withheld pending notification of next of kin.

## Cafeteria Opening

CONT'D FROM PAGE ONE

to six dollars. "Prices should be a little cheaper because we are students," said Estela Rojas, a student.

"It's better for the students and more convenient, but it's more complicated for the workers," Ventura said. "It's a different system and the equipment is more sophisticated, the register

delays and it slows down the line."

"Shelves should be stocked at all times to get the buyers' attention," Rojas said.

The environment of the new cafeteria is very inviting, students said. The price of warm food and a clean and bright place to eat is worth it.



KARLA S. GUTIERREZ/Valley Star

Austin Conover, curator of Los Angeles Valley Museum, displays a project made by a student in honor of James L. Dodson at Los Angeles Valley Historical Museum.

## Austin Conover

CONT'D FROM PAGE ONE

opened, Conover said.

The museum has had many famous people visit and give lectures, from President Bill Clinton to the granddaughter of William Mulholland.

Catherine Mulholland's presentation in November 2000 was a huge success, with a standing room crowd only. Valley honored Conover with the Patrons Association Certificate of Appreciation on March 6, 2000, for taking care of the museum. "Austin is a gem, worthy of any recognition possible that would honor him," said Sara Bauer, president of the Los Angeles Valley College Historical Museum Association.

The museum collects documents, photographs and artifacts relating to the San Fernando Valley. It also acts as a repository for the college's publications, documents, photographs and

tapes of the recollections of long-time residents.

The museum displays the history of the valley and features artifacts connected with that history. It also provides supplies of reference materials for study and for research projects.

Conover is more than accommodating to give out and instruct with his mental collection of so much rich history that he himself experienced.

Some of the wonderful things to see are the archival materials relating to the life and career of W. P. Whitsett, the founder of Van Nuys, Calif.

The materials include clothing of the latter 19th and early 20th centuries. On display are a geologic exhibit containing rocks and fossils found in the San Fernando Valley and an exhibit of articles brought up from ships sunk off the California Coast.

Other artifacts include such items as an anchor from pre-Columbian Chinese junk and gear from American sailing ships, paintings and photographs of the valley taken in the 19th and 20th centuries, and early maps of the valley.

"The museum is dedicated to the history of the San Fernando Valley," Conover said.

Valley program technician Rudy De La Torre conducts campus tours for new students.

"Like all this rich history, all who thirst for knowledge from the past history, a tour with Austin Conover is truly a treasure to be experienced," De La Torre said. "While this living legend is around to share it all."

Conover can be found at the museum from 1p.m. to 4p.m., Monday through Friday during the spring and fall semesters.

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- ★ *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*

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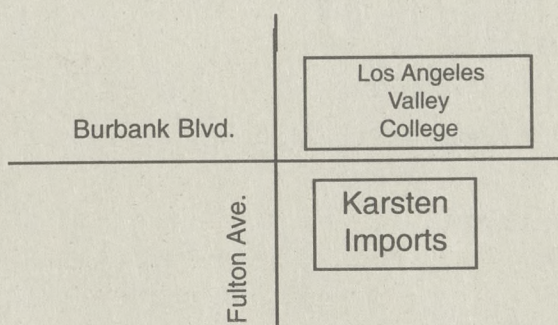
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Samantha Kuppig/Valley Star  
New football coach, Ron Ponciano came to Valley College from CSUN to unite the Monarch's and bring a new sense of pride to his players.

## New coach wears many hats

■**Football:** Ron Ponciano named new head coach for the football team.

By SOTIVEAR SIM  
STAR REPORTER

It's 10:00 in the morning and Ron Ponciano, new head coach for the football team, is reclines in his chair and working the phones hoping to snag a new recruit.

He has just finished a grueling morning workout with his players that started at 6:30 in the morning. His face is grizzled and his hair a bit disheveled as he spent the night at school.

During the interview he answered question in between brushing his teeth and washing his face.

On a large dry erase board behind Ponciano is a long list of players' names written out in squat little black handwriting.

On many of the names are thick black check marks, which signifies that they have accepted a scholarship to play football at a four year University.

"I'm not sure if I can get any more satisfaction from sending a kid to a four year college," Ponciano said. "It shows that they are good players and that they accomplished their academic duties."

Ponciano refers to his players as his kids.

He even got a scholarship to the University of Louisville for one of his players, Brook Amelio, who has not played in single game. "They know me and trust me," said Ponciano. "I pretty much told them 'if Brook Amelio doesn't play for you I

coaching staff and emphasizing conditioning to his players.

"Valley College is going to make a big statement next season," Ponciano said.

One of the key additions to the coaching staff is assistant coach David Banuelos, who formerly coached at Pierce College. He is a full-time assistant coach so he has the flexibility to work more intensely with the players.

The head coach is directly involved in strength and conditioning of the players. "The off season workouts are extremely beneficial," Ponciano said.

"Those who prepare in time of peace bleed less in war."

Ponciano's mere presence as the interim coach has changed the mindset of the team.

"Terrence Chapman missed a practice and I didn't play him in the

Those who prepare in time of peace bleed less in war.

RON PONCIANO

will quit coaching."

Ponciano was the interim head coach for most of last year, as former head coach Carl Ferrel became ill.

Over winter break, Ponciano was officially named the head coach of the football team. And in no time he started planning for the upcoming season.

He started by revamping the

following game," Ponciano said. "He didn't miss a practice after that."

Another of Ponciano's goals is to tap into the local talent. "My emphasis is going to be recruiting the city kids and not the California Interscholastic Federation," Ponciano said. "We want to create a sense of pride."

## Softball: Give a hoot

■**Softball:** Lady Monarchs lose ace after the first inning and score only one run in loss to Owls.

By SOTIVEAR SIM  
STAR REPORTER

A game held on a dreary overcast day foreshadowed a crushing loss to the Mt. San Antonio College Owls 8-1.

The game started off bad and got worse. The Mt. San Antonio College Owls started off with a single from their lead off hitter.

They then loaded the bases off an error in the infield and a walk.

After the first inning their only

starting pitcher, Melissa Rodriguez of the Lady Monarchs, came out of the game with a strained hip flexor. "She pitched six games in eight days," said catcher Aileen Feri. "She is a soldier."

With the bases loaded the Owls hit a double deep into center field and with a mishandled ball in the outfield led 3-0.

The Lady Monarchs answered back in the first inning when short stop Blair Blakeley hit a shot into center field to bring home Gaby Alonso for their one and only score.

The Owls added to their substantial lead with some timely hitting and finished the second leading 5-1.

Desiree Rosa came in for relief for starting pitcher Melissa

Rodriguez and pitched competently for the next six innings giving up only three runs.

Rodriguez has pitched every game so far this season and this game was the first one she sat out. "It sucked sitting out," said Rodriguez. "I wanted to come back in the game."

The Monarchs are 3-3-1 to start off their season and are optimistic for a good season.

The team is at the end of a grueling schedule, playing seven games in 10 days. "I'm worried that they will be tired mentally and physically," assistant coach Mario Rico said.

"I think we are doing good, better than last year," Carin Garcia said. "We are going to have more fun this year."

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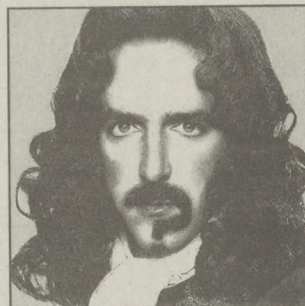
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*The Question Marquis*

*Ask the Question Marquis is a sporadically produced advice column, because proper loving takes time. It is to be read with a silly French accent. The views of the Question Marquis are his alone and are in no way to be construed as representative of his sponsor, Questia, you American pigs.*

## Ask the Question Marquis

Q: Dear Question Marquis: My girlfriend seems distant lately. And I can't get her to take off her sunglasses. I wonder if she's seeing someone else. What should I say to her? — Paul in Dallas

A: Ah, mon ami. I think I can help you with this. Your female is probably feeling that you spend more time with the library than with her delicate, sensuous frame. (I am making the assumptions about her, but for your sake, I hope that I am right, you know?) But you are having many of the research papers, correct? So you have two options to send you on the path toward a satisfactory loving scenario.

Option 1. When you are writing the research papers, you can save time by going to questia.com. Listen, this is brand new. You can skip all of the tedious working, because the full text of the books and journal articles is all online. Search for the keywords, highlight the text. Also, you are not going to believe this, but if you want to quote something, you just click a button and Questia puts it in your paper, footnotes it, and formats the bibliography automatically. And right now you can get two days\* of Questia free. So try it. When your girlfriend sees how much better your papers become and how much more time you have for her, she will be looking at you with her naked eyes that seem to say, "Hallo, I like you. Much, much more than I like pâté de fois gras," or whatever it is these girls like now.

Option 2. You can challenge her to a duel.

Also, what are sunglasses?

*"It is the joke of an imbecile who longs to have my knowledge and looks. Challenge the pig to a duel."*

Q: Dear Question Marquis: My friend sent me this photo. I don't get it. Is it a joke, or is it some deeper commentary on the effect of technology on culture? — Cosmo in Grand Rapids

A: It is the joke of an imbecile who longs to have my knowledge and looks. Challenge the pig to a duel.

Q: Dear Question Marquis: How come you know about computers and dot.coms, but you've never heard of sunglasses? — Michelle in Boston

A: Oh, sunglasses. Of course I know sunglasses. I thought you said "St. Molasses." I am not familiar with that one. The patron saint of sorghum? What?

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